



Board of Trustees - Study Session

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 5:45 pm

**PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
THANK YOU**

1. Meeting Information

207 Muegge Way, Bennett, CO 80102

For a live stream of the meeting use the information below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85647104048>

Meeting ID: 856 4710 4048

Passcode: 793963

One tap mobile

+13462487799

2. Adams County Homelessness Services Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Gerilynn Scheidt, Town Safety Officer

Attachments:

- **Staff Report Adams County Homelessness Services Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** (0-TownofBennett_Staff_Report.pdf)
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** (1-MOU_on_Homelessness_-_Final.pdf)
- **Mapping Homelessness to Housing Flier** (2-Mapping_Homelessness_to_Housing.pdf)
- **Community Safety & Well-Being Flier** (3-CSWB_Program_Initiatives_Flyer_v2.pdf)

Contact: Christina Hart (chart@bennett.co.us 303-644-3249 x1001) | Agenda published on 03/17/2022 at 9:29 AM

STAFF REPORT



welcome neighbors.

TO: Mayor and Town of Bennett Board of Trustees
FROM: Gerilynn Scheidt, Town Safety Officer
DATE: March 22, 2022
SUBJECT: Adams County Homelessness Services MOU

Background

Adams County has begun coordinating homelessness services, data sharing and determining roles and responsibilities between the county and municipalities (i.e., City of Aurora, City of Brighton, City of Commerce City, City of Federal Heights, City of Northglenn, City of Thornton, City of Westminster, City and County of Broomfield and Town of Bennett) in order to coordinate services and investments countywide and reach as many people experiencing homelessness in the community as possible.

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") would take effect in 2022 and remain in effect through December 31, 2024, subject to the Town's right to terminate its involvement at any time.

Purpose

This proposed MOU regarding homelessness services will strengthen regional coordination and improve outcomes for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Through a shared commitment to share and utilize available data, all parties agree to identify resources and service needs for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and potential locations and properties that can best provide those resources and services.

The Town of Bennett would be responsible for collaborating efforts, participating in meetings, sharing data with Adams County to help facilitate program planning, and assigning a staff member to the Core Team who can speak on behalf of the Town.

Through the MOU, the Town of Bennett will have an opportunity to further evaluate the homelessness situation in the area as well as provide dignity related services to any resident experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Furthermore, the MOU does not require a financial obligation from the Town and it contains a termination right, which would allow the Town to terminate its involvement if necessary.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Adams County, Colorado and the Cities of Aurora, Brighton, Commerce City, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton, Westminster, the Town of Bennett and the City and County of Broomfield regarding homelessness services.

Attachments

1. Memorandum of Understanding
2. Mapping Homelessness to Housing Flier
3. Community Safety & Well-Being Flier

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO AND THE CITIES OF AURORA, BRIGHTON, COMMERCE CITY, FEDERAL HEIGHTS, NORTHGLENN, THORNTON, WESTMINSTER, THE TOWN OF BENNETT, AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF BROOMFIELD REGARDING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES.

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) is entered this __ day of ____, 2022, between Adams County, located at 4430 S. Adams County Parkway, Brighton, CO 80601 hereinafter referred to as “County”; the City of Aurora, Colorado located at 15151 East Alameda Parkway, Aurora, Colorado 80012; the City of Brighton, Colorado, located at 500 South 4th Avenue, Brighton, Colorado 80601; the City of Commerce City, Colorado, located at 7887 East 60th Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado 80022; the City of Federal Heights, Colorado, located at 2380 West 90th Avenue, Federal Heights, Colorado, 80260; the City of Northglenn, Colorado, located at 11701 Community Center Drive, Northglenn, Colorado 80233; the City of Thornton, Colorado, located at 9500 Civic Center Drive, Thornton, Colorado 80229; the City of Westminster, Colorado, located at 4800 West 92nd Avenue, Westminster, Colorado 80031; the Town of Bennett, located at 207 Muegge Way, Bennett, Colorado 80102, and the City and County of Broomfield, located at 1 DesCombes Drive, Broomfield, Colorado 80020; collectively referred to herein as “Municipalities”. The County and Municipalities may be collectively referred to herein as the “Parties”.

Background

The coordination of homelessness services, data sharing, and determining roles and responsibilities between the County and its Municipalities has been a consistent challenge. As a county, Adams County provides public benefits and other resources; however, policies related to staffing, housing services, and resident responses lie independently within its Municipalities. Our 2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count states that there are 483 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Adams County; however, data from the 2020-21 Severe Weather Activation Plan (SWAP) season shows that we have at least 800 unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness. The data also shows that homelessness in Adams County is a homegrown issue, as 67% of residents that accessed the hotel/motel vouchers listed Adams County as their last permanent residence. With three of the top four evicting cities either fully or partially in Adams County, we recognize that homelessness is a shared problem. It is essential for the Parties to coordinate services and investments countywide so we can reach people experiencing homelessness in their community.

We also strive to ensure our investments in homelessness are making the biggest impact for our most vulnerable residents. This ensures that our resources are continuing to improve outcomes for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Adams County and its Municipalities have made progress in funding and serving people experiencing homelessness (PEH) through initiatives such as the Severe Weather Action Plan (SWAP), Adams County Day Works, Homelessness Outreach, Mobile Showers and Mobile Laundry Services, Mobile Home Initiative, Housing Navigation and Mediation, Respite Housing, and Next Step. However, there are countywide gaps in services indicating that coordination on shared priorities is needed.

Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to further strengthen regional coordination and improve outcomes for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness through a shared vision. Through a commitment to share and utilize available data, the Parties agree to identify resource and service needs for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and potential locations and properties that can best provide those resources and services. This work is intended to be multi-faceted and a long-term commitment resulting in solutions to addressing current challenges for PEH access to services and housing.

Project Goals and Outcomes

The Parties support the following goals and outcomes:

VISION: To provide a regionally coordinated, aligned, and evidence-based approach to providing services in Adams County and Broomfield County so that homelessness is a rare, brief, and one-time experience for our residents.

GOAL: To align municipal and county efforts and resources towards evidence-based homelessness solutions and housing services and to address the gaps in service provision for PEH.

ACTIVITIES:

- Identify what data is readily available and can easily be shared, as well as what limitations exist in the data.
- Share available homelessness-related data with Adams County and with all of the Parties to create a central hub, hosted on Adams County servers, to analyze root causes and best solutions to reduce homelessness. This may include, but is not limited to, Homelessness Management Information Systems (HMIS) data, as well as programmatic, police, health, and citizen complaint data, as available, at the jurisdictional level.
- Utilize data to identify:
 - How to take the work to the next level culminating in an implementation plan for providing facilities for service provision as well as transitional and permanent supportive housing.
 - Areas of opportunity to provide a comprehensive system of services and housing for PEH based on existing mapping of facilities, an inventory of current services being provided, and development of a single navigation and entry system.
 - Objective criteria and ideal locations, available properties, and opportunities to provide the identified resources and services which may include:
 - Day shelter and/or housing navigation services.
 - Filling in gaps in the shelter/housing continuum including, but not limited to:
 - Safe parking

- Tiny home villages
- Pallet shelter communities
- Transitional housing
- Permanent supportive housing
- Identify potential state and federal grant programs, or partnerships with nonprofit organizations to secure endowments and to leverage funding between the Parties and other entities.
- Identify other challenges related to services for PEH and housing continuum such as transportation, mental, behavioral, or other health support, and/or employment.
- Identify needed adjustments to zoning regulations or design standards that might impose impediments to the placement of shelters, transitional and permanent housing, or require additional time to resolve.
- Collaborate on issues pertaining to housing regulations.
- Identify development partners and real estate partnerships/lease opportunities to maximize delivery of housing projects along the continuum of care.

OUTPUTS:

- An objective, evidence-based document that outlines the need for day shelter or types of short- and long-term housing/shelter and recommendations on potential locations and properties (Report) that would be most suitable for these efforts.
 - Recommendations could also include measures that address root causes, systems and/or policy changes, and preventative programs, among others.
 - This Report will be used to guide discussion and decisions for the Parties.
- A secure, central, electronic warehouse for homelessness-related data in Adams County so that we can understand the full landscape and life cycle of homelessness, root causes of housing instability, and the best ways to reduce homelessness in Adams and Broomfield Counties.

OUTCOME:

- More collaboration between municipalities in making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.
- Improved service provision and infrastructure so that homelessness is a rare, brief, and one-time experience.

Commitment

This MOU does not irrevocably bind or commit any Party to any financial obligation; however, it implies the Parties will strive to perform the Roles and Responsibilities, identified herein to the best of their abilities.

Effective Date and Term

This MOU will take effect on January 1, 2022 and remain in effect through December 31, 2024, subject to the Parties' right to terminate under this MOU.

This MOU will automatically renew for up to three consecutive one-year terms, subject to the Parties' right to terminate this MOU.

This MOU, or any Party's participation in this MOU, may be terminated by providing 60 days written notice to all Parties.

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to create a multiple fiscal-year obligation for any Party.

Roles and Responsibilities

Adams County is responsible for the following:

- Driving the work prescribed in the MOU that shows commitment in aligning efforts including coordinating the development of the Report with input from the Parties.
- Coordinate with the Municipalities on the signing and execution of the MOU and any other Intergovernmental Agreements required to develop the Outputs.
- Convene meetings with Municipalities, Elected Officials, and Core Team that move the work ahead.
- Share data with the rest of the Parties for efficient, effective, and consistent use to help facilitate program planning, policymaking, and project delivery.
- Provide updates on the progress in partnership with Municipalities.
- Facilitate conversations on data sharing with Core Team and municipal departments.
- Assign a member from Adams County to the Core Team who can speak on behalf of the county subject to approval by the elected officials or executive management with respect to Activities identified in this MOU.

Municipalities are responsible for the following:

- Commitment in aligning efforts.
- Participate in meetings with the Parties that drive the work forward.
- Actively share data with Adams County for efficient, effective, and consistent use to help facilitate program planning, policymaking, and project delivery.
- Assign a member from the participating entity to the Core Team who can speak on behalf of the municipalities subject to approval by the elected officials or executive management with respect to Activities identified in this MOU.

Core Team

- Commit to working with Adams County staff delivering the scope of work, data needs, data evaluation, service gaps, and individual municipal interests, among others.

- Work with the Parties to help identify policy changes within Municipalities and the Counties to meet homelessness services needs.
- Report out to the Parties on the progress of the work.
- Make informed, regionally oriented decisions based on available data to reduce homelessness.

SIGNATURE PAGES

ADAMS COUNTY

Chair

Approved to Form:

Adams County Attorney's Office

CITY OF AURORA

Mayor

Approved to Form:

City Attorney's Office

CITY OF BRIGHTON

Mayor

Approved to Form:

City Attorney's Office

CITY OF COMMERCE CITY

Mayor

Approved to Form:

City Attorney's Office

CITY OF FEDERAL HEIGHTS

Mayor

Approved to Form:

City Attorney's Office

CITY OF NORTHGLENN

Mayor

Approved to Form:

City Attorney's Office

CITY OF THORNTON

Mayor

Approved to Form:

City Attorney's Office

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

Mayor

Approved to Form:

City Attorney's Office

TOWN OF BENNETT

Mayor

Approved to Form:

Town Attorney's Office

CITY AND COUNTY OF BROOMFIELD

Mayor

Approved to Form:

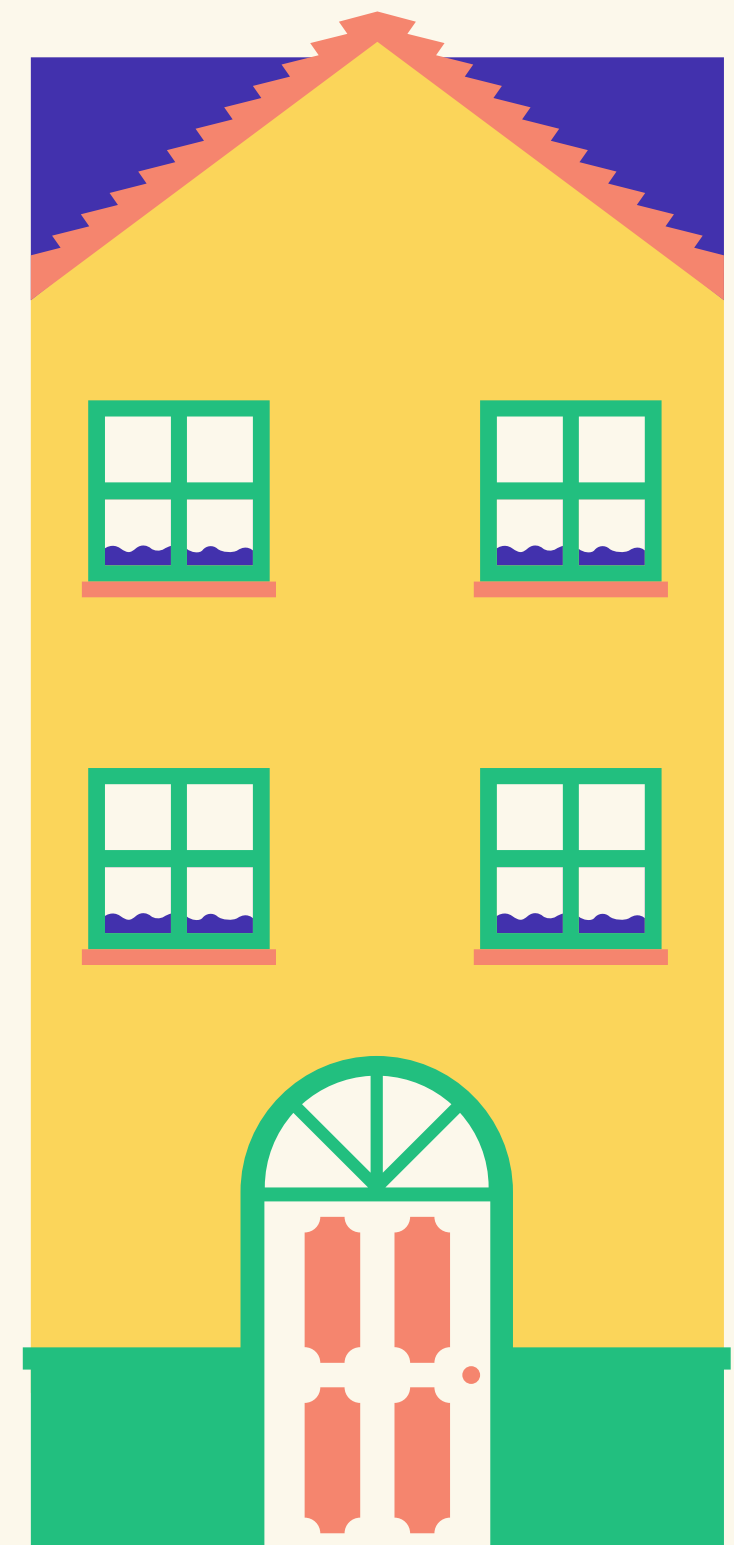
County Attorney's Office

Mapping Homelessness to Housing



There are 3,642+ people experiencing homelessness in Adams County

400+ shelter bed deficit



Types of Homelessness Estimation

Living Situation	Doubled-Up	Sheltered	Unsheltered
# in Population	2,786	455	401

*Estimates are based on a review of Point-in-Time, McKinney-Vento, Homeless Management Information Systems, and Severe Weather Activation Plan (SWAP) data.

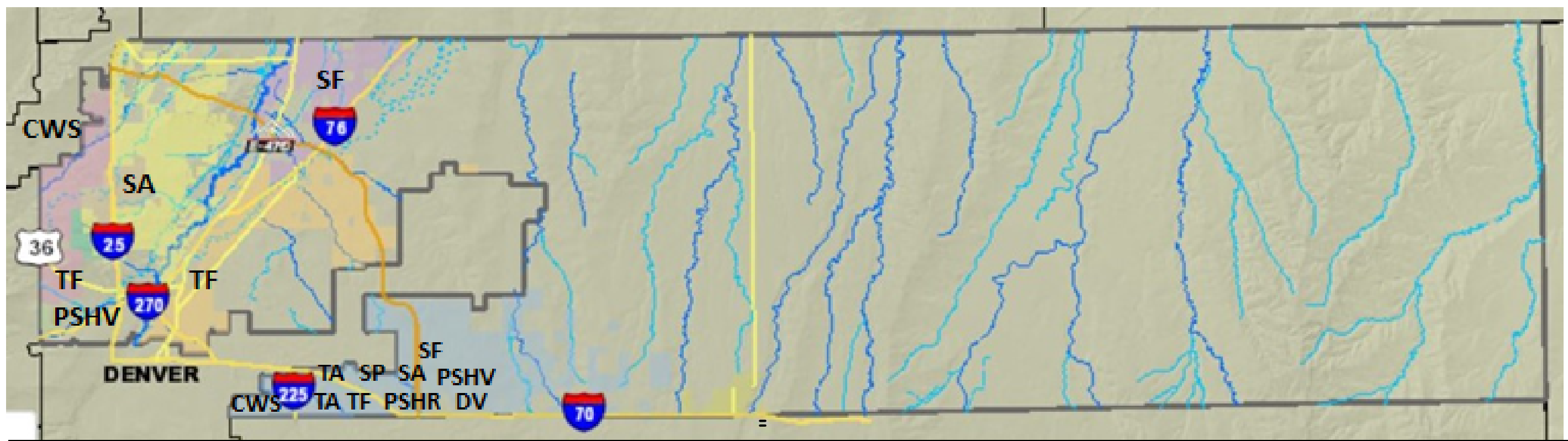
Level of Need & Appropriate Housing Intervention

Level of Need	Description	# in Population	Evidence-Based Intervention	Providers	# of Beds
Low Needs Residents	Non-chronic without a disabling condition	559	Rapid Rehousing	Almost Home; Second Chance Center	34 (mostly people in re-entry)
Medium Needs Residents	Non-chronic with a disabling condition	176	Transitional Housing	ACCESS Housing; Comitis Crisis; Growing Home	87 (mostly families with children under 18)
High Needs Residents	Chronically homeless	213	Permanent Supportive Housing	Second Chance Center; Maiker Housing Partners	152 (only veterans and people in re-entry)

*Based on 2020-2021 SWAP data only.

*"Chronically homeless" means homeless longer than one year or more than four episodes of homelessness in three years with a disability condition.

ADAMS COUNTY HOUSING INTERVENTIONS RESOURCE MAP



KEY

- TA: Transitional Housing for Adults
- TF: Transitional Housing for Families
- SF: Shelter for Families
- SA: Shelter for Adults
- SP: Safe Parking
- CWS: Cold Weather Shelter
- PSHR: Permanent Supportive Housing for People in Re-entry
- PSHV: Permanent Supportive Housing for Veterans
- DV: Domestic Violence Shelter

*SWAP (CWS) is not displayed on the map because it covers the entire county

*Maiker Housing Partners' HUD-VASH vouchers (PSH-V) cover the entire county besides Brighton, Aurora, and Commerce City.

*One of the transitional housing sites for adults in Aurora is a Safe Outdoor Space/Pallet Shelter Village

***The above map is up to date as of February 2022.**

Factors Contributing to Homelessness (Self-Reported)	Count of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
Abuse or Violence in My Home	37	26.62%
Unable to Pay Rent Mortgage	34	24.46%
Relationship Problems or Family Break-up	32	23.02%
Asked to Leave or Evicted	31	22.30%
Lost a Job Could Not Find Work	26	18.71%
COVID-19	24	17.27%
Unable to Pay Utilities	22	15.83%
Family Member or Personal Illness	21	15.11%
Mental Illness	16	11.51%
Alcohol Substance Abuse Problems	14	10.07%
Disabling Condition)	14	10.07%
PTSD	11	7.91%
Discharged from Prison	9	6.47%
Bad Credit	8	5.76%
Moved to Find Work	5	3.60%
Discharged from Jail	4	2.88%
Client Choice	3	2.16%
Medical Expenses	2	1.44%
Problems with Public Benefits	2	1.44%
Traumatic brain injury	1	0.72%
Discharge from Foster Care	1	0.72%
Reasons Related to My Sexual Orientation or Gender	1	0.72%
Legal Problems	1	0.72%
Reasons related to my race or ethnicity	0	0.00%

***The above factors are based on a sample size of 145 unique clients entered into HMIS.**

Eviction Rates



COLORADO

USA

×

49.71

EVICIONS PER DAY

2.75%

EVICION RATE

+0.41 U.S. average

Evictions

18,195

Eviction Filing Rate

5.48%

Eviction Filings

36,240

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

8.49%

Population

5,278,906



ADAMS COUNTY

COLORADO

×

7.44

EVICIONS PER DAY

4.4%

EVICION RATE

+2.06 U.S. average

Evictions

2,722

Eviction Filing Rate

9.3%

Eviction Filings

5,760

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

10.32%

Population

471,206



BROOMFIELD COUNTY

COLORADO

×

Unavailable

EVICIONS PER DAY

Unavailable

EVICION RATE

Evictions

Unavailable

Eviction Filing Rate

Unavailable

Eviction Filings

Unavailable

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

4.36%

Population

60,699



AURORA

COLORADO

×

8.55

EVICIONS PER DAY

5.52%

EVICION RATE

+3.18 U.S. average

Evictions

3,131

Eviction Filing Rate

11.99%

Eviction Filings

6,796

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

11.4%

Population

345,867



THORNTON

COLORADO

×

1.76

EVICIONS PER DAY

4.64%

EVICION RATE

+2.3 U.S. average

Evictions

645

Eviction Filing Rate

10.86%

Eviction Filings

1,509

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

6.95%

Population

127,688



WESTMINSTER

COLORADO

×

1.42

EVICIONS PER DAY

3.16%

EVICION RATE

+0.82 U.S. average

Evictions

519

Eviction Filing Rate

6.97%

Eviction Filings

1,144

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

6.55%

Population

110,598



NORTHGLENN

COLORADO

×

1.13

EVICIONS PER DAY

6.24%

EVICION RATE

+3.90 U.S. average

Evictions

412

Eviction Filing Rate

14.57%

Eviction Filings

963

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

9.22%

Population

37,754



BRIGHTON

COLORADO

×

0.35

EVICIONS PER DAY

3.27%

EVICION RATE

+0.93 U.S. average

Evictions

128

Eviction Filing Rate

7.79%

Eviction Filings

306

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

9.02%

Population

35,582



FEDERAL HEIGHTS

COLORADO

×

0.57

EVICIONS PER DAY

8.25%

EVICION RATE

+5.91 U.S. average

Evictions

208

Eviction Filing Rate

15.93%

Eviction Filings

401

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

15.93%

Population

12,037



BENNETT

COLORADO

×

0.01

EVICIONS PER DAY

1.19%

EVICION RATE

-1.15 U.S. average

Evictions

3

Eviction Filing Rate

1.55%

Eviction Filings

4

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

8.7%

Population

1,915



COMMERCE CITY

COLORADO

×

0.32

EVICIONS PER DAY

2.25%

EVICION RATE

-0.09 U.S. average

Evictions

117

Eviction Filing Rate

4.03%

Eviction Filings

210

CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Poverty Rate

10.62%

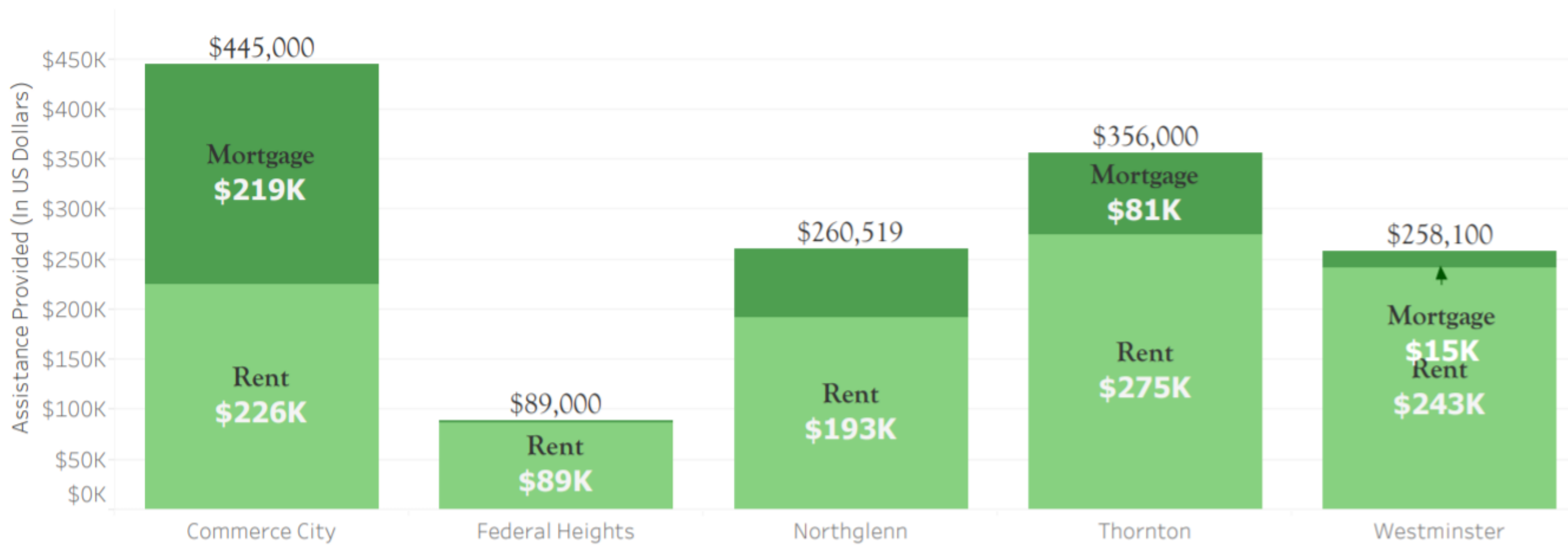
Population

50,346

*The above chart is from Princeton University's Eviction Lab. The data is from 2016 and is outdated.

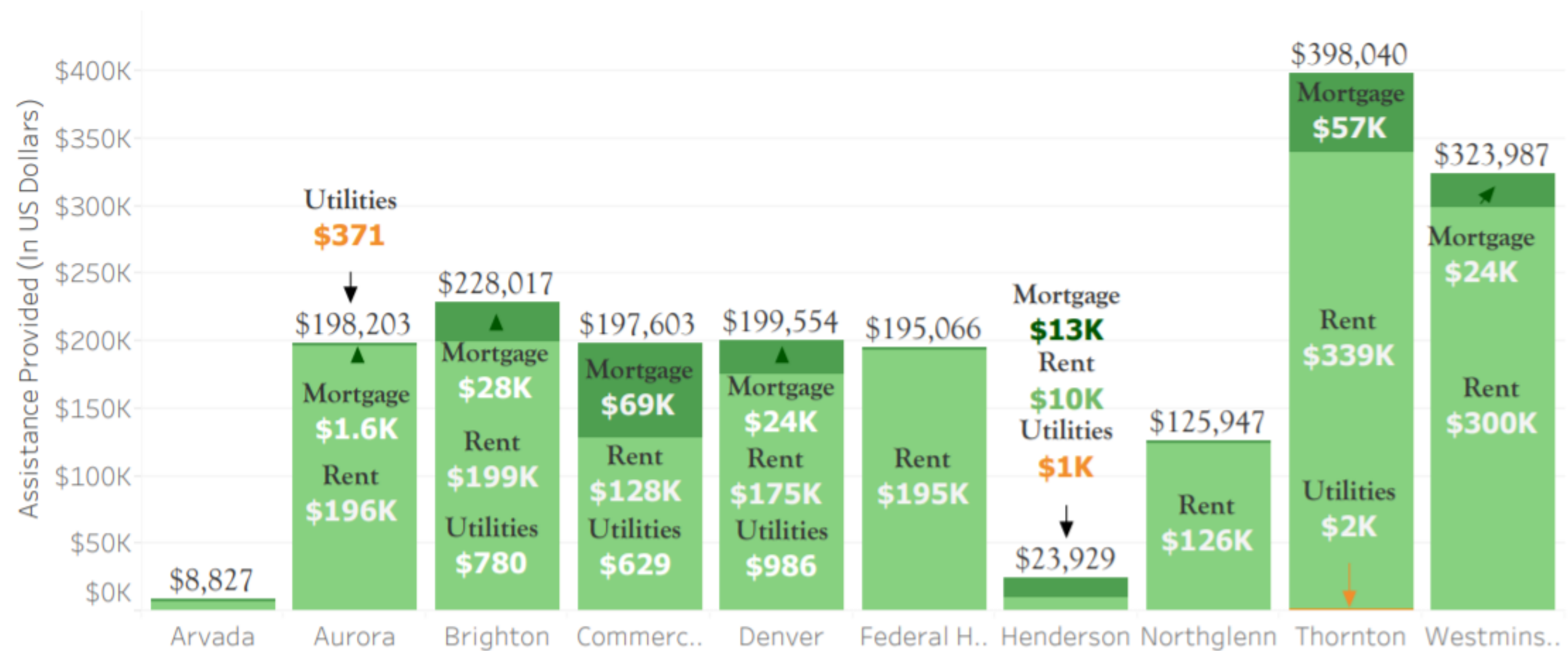
CARES Act Funding

Assistance for Mortgage, Rent, and Utilities
Incorporated Breakdown

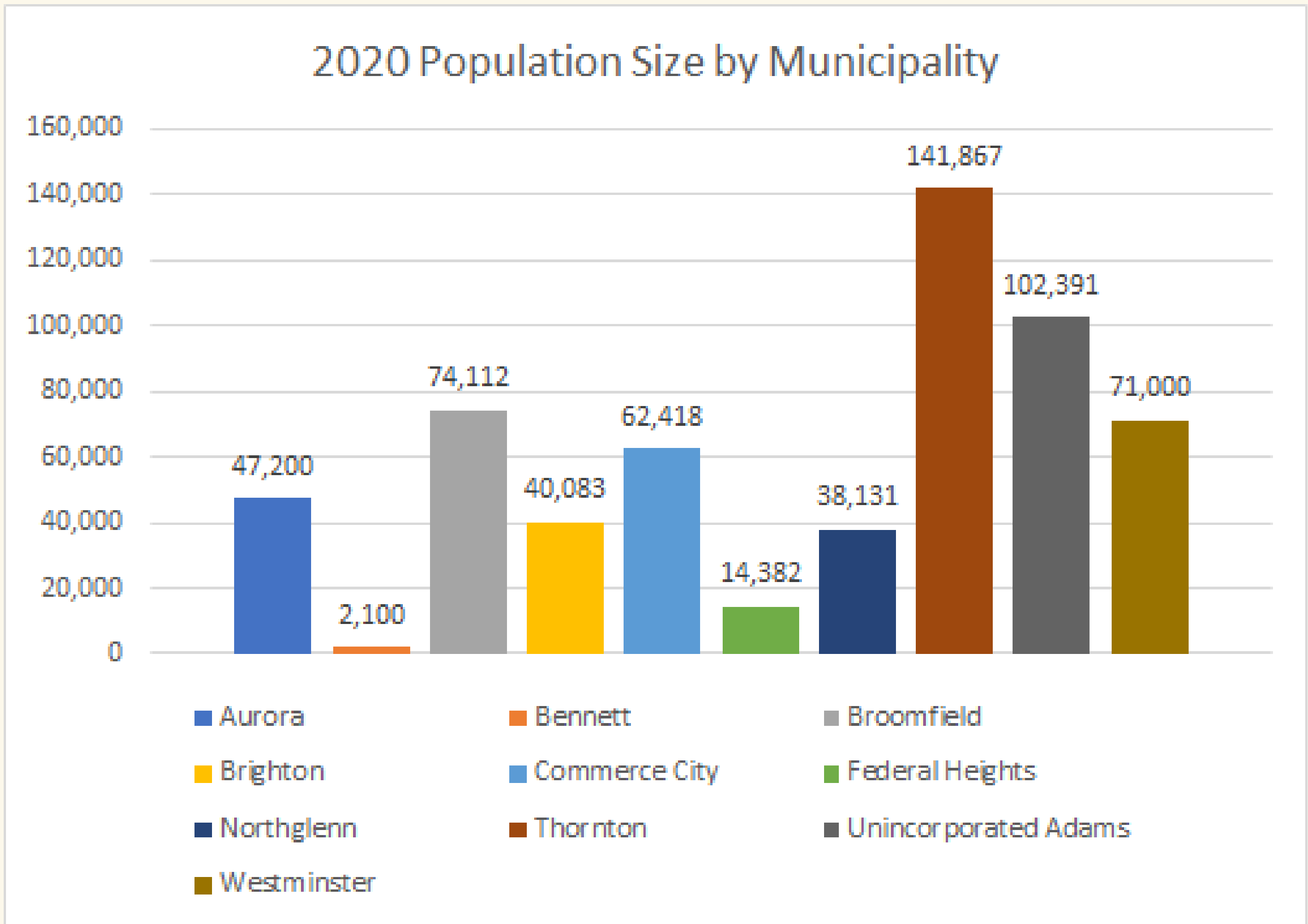


Data provided by Maiker Housing Partners. 2020 COVID CARES ACT Funding via the Adams County Housing Stability Response & Recovery Team. Incorporated (Commerce City, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton, Westminster). Sum of assistance for incorporated is \$1,408,618.68.

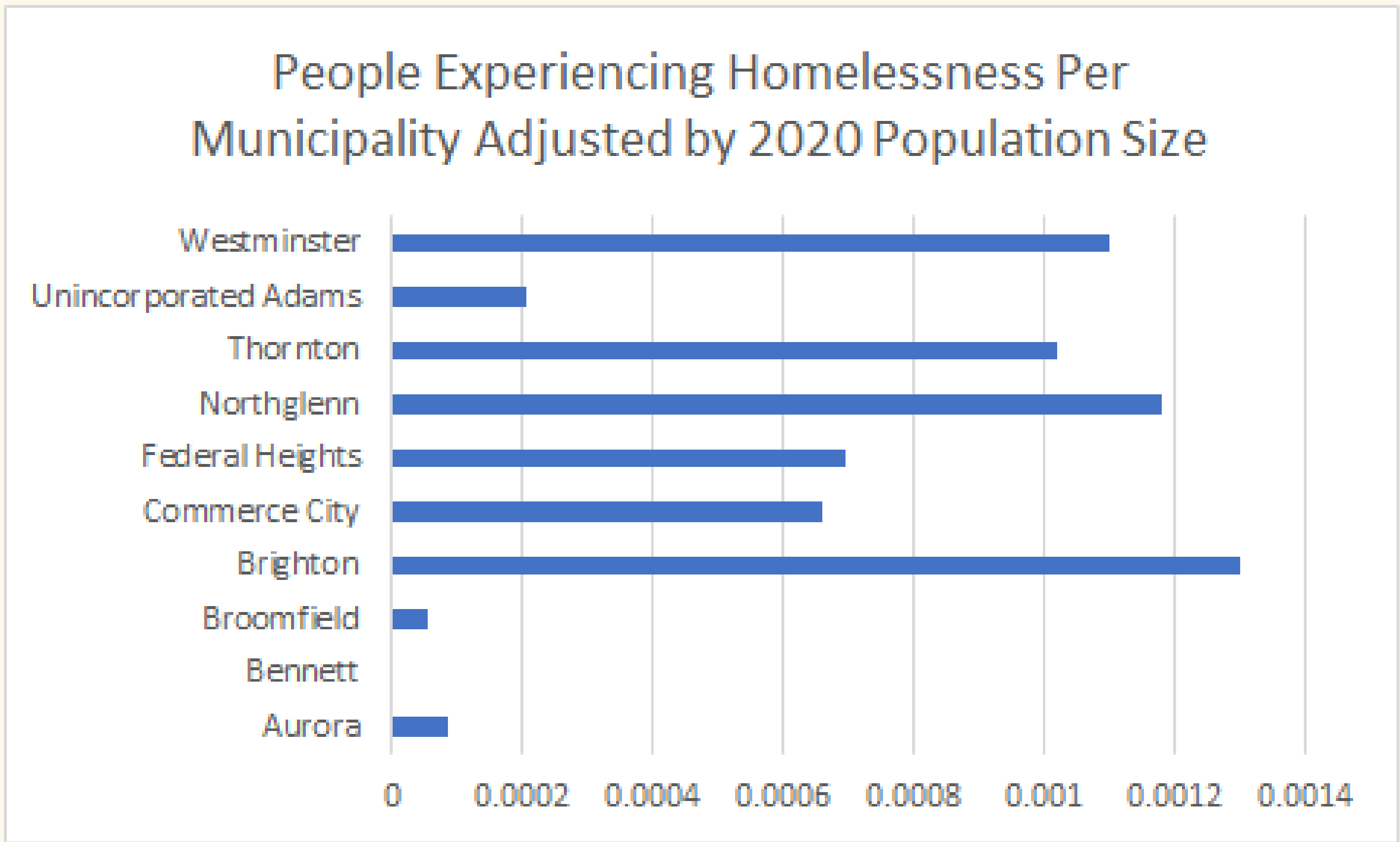
Assistance for Mortgage, Rent, and Utilities
Unincorporated Breakdown



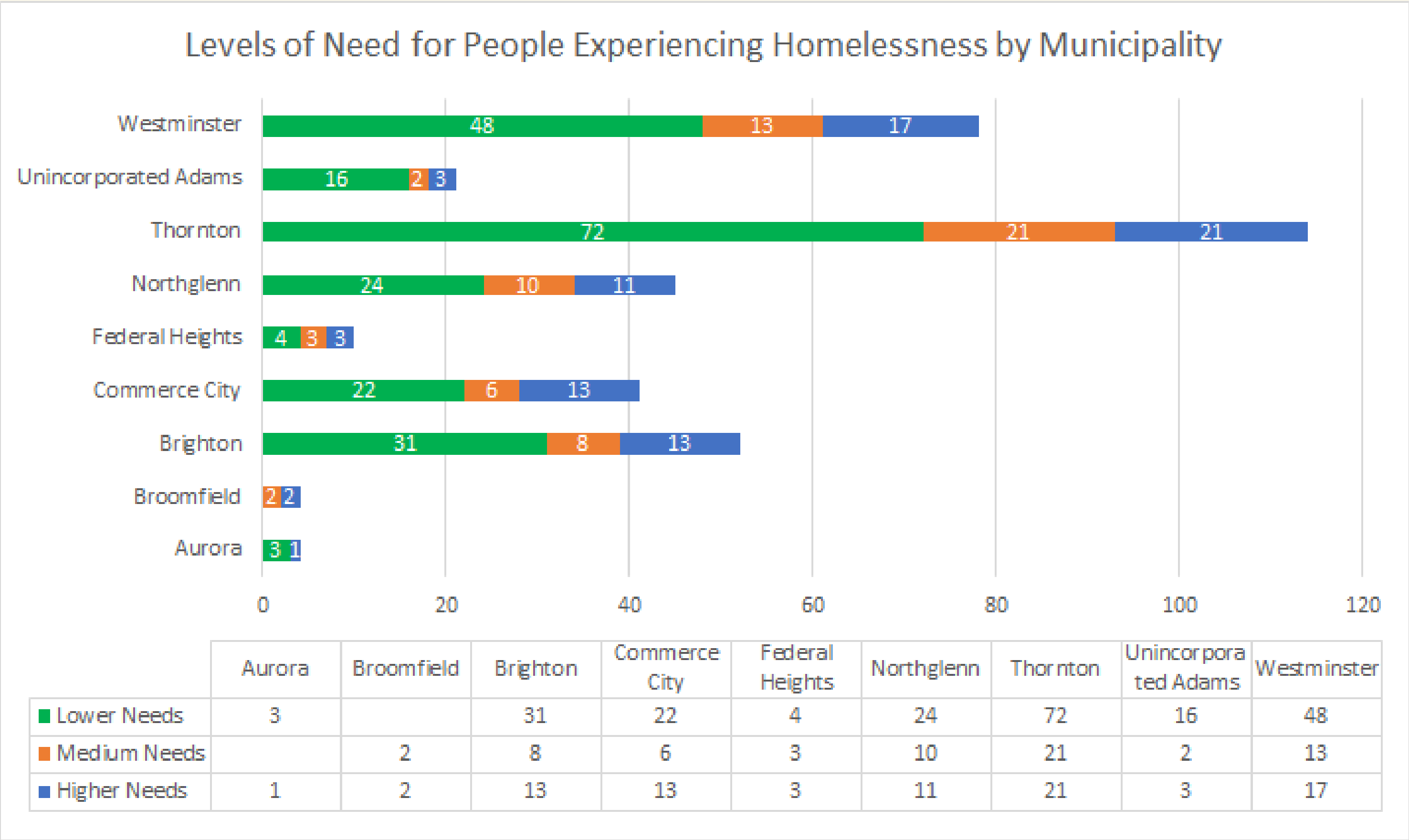
Data provided by Maiker Housing Partners. 2020 COVID CARES ACT Funding via the Adams County Housing Stability Response & Recovery Team. Unincorporated Adams County (Arvada, Aurora, Brighton, Commerce City, Denver, Federal Heights, Henderson, Northglenn, Thornton, and Westminster). Sum of assistance for incorporated is \$1,899,174.



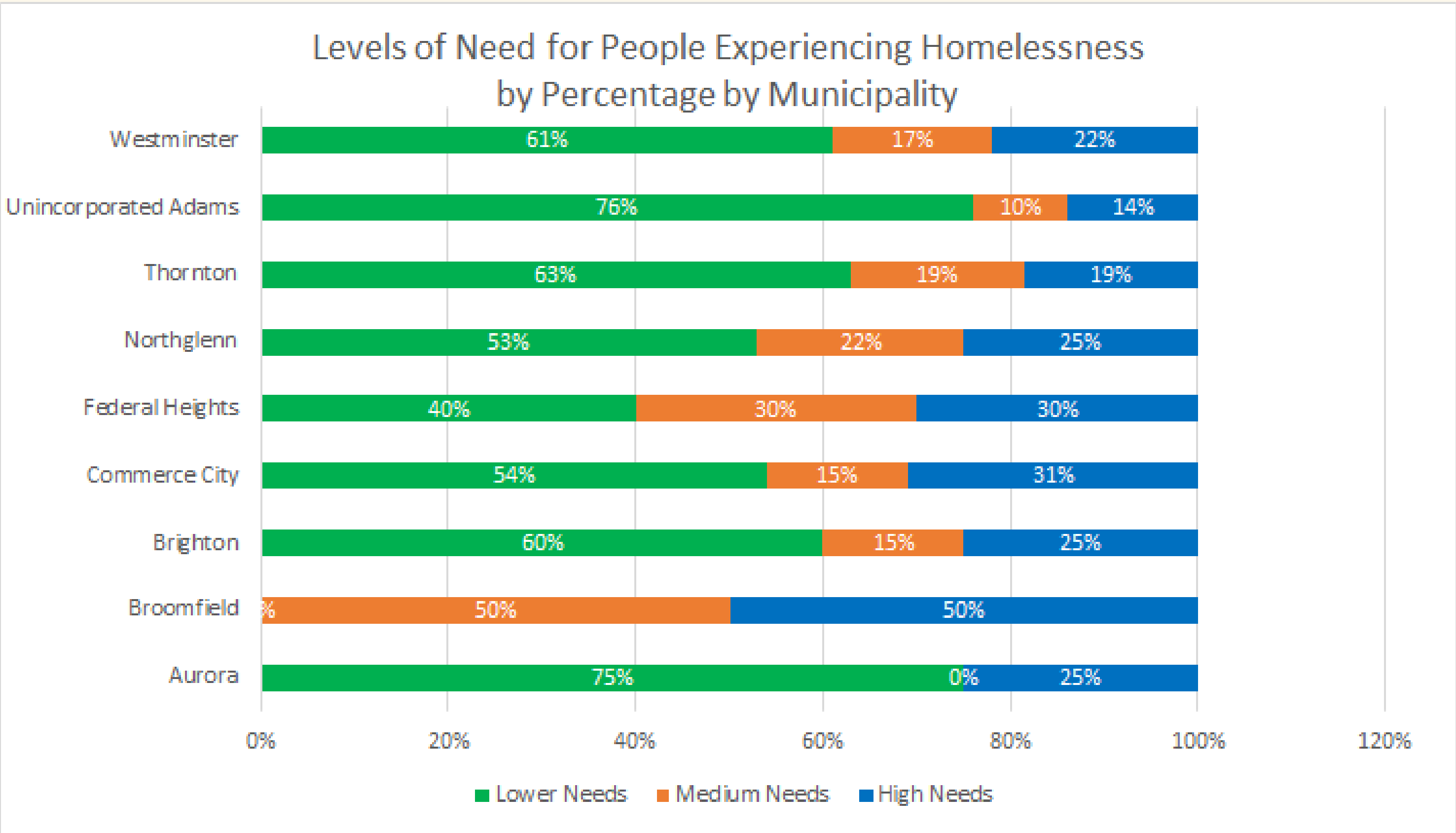
***The above chart is for the general population not just people experiencing homelessness.**



***The above graph shows the rate of homelessness per municipality.**



***In the above and below charts, the data for Aurora and Broomfield is inaccurate due to lower participation in the Severe Weather Activation Plan (SWAP).**



***The above chart displays the ratio of levels of need for people experiencing homelessness by municipality.**



Community Safety & Well-Being

PROGRAM AND INITIATIVES

HOMEWARD ADAMS

Adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in July 2021, Homeward Adams is Adams County's homelessness reduction strategic framework and keys in on three focus areas: homelessness prevention, strengthen the housing continuum, and homelessness services.

SEVERE WEATHER ACTIVATION PLAN (SWAP)

A life-saving program for people experiencing homelessness during nights of severe weather through the distribution of motel vouchers. Over 8,300 homeless nights were averted from October 2020 through April 2021, including during a historic Colorado blizzard.

HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH

Through street outreach, professionals across Adams County connect with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, provide support, and connect them with resources and services. The outreach program has expanded to incorporate trained volunteers and to host resource fairs throughout the county in partnership with community organizations and municipalities.

ADAMS COUNTY DAY WORKS

This program provides low-to no-barrier day labor opportunities for people experiencing homelessness while working toward permanent

employment. Participants receive onsite support and coaching, same day payment, resource and employment navigation. Adams County Day Works will expand with an additional work crew focused on veterans experiencing homelessness.

MOBILE SHOWERS AND MOBILE LAUNDRY SERVICES

Mobile shower and laundry trucks are available for people experiencing homelessness weekly and are also available during resource fairs and other events.

BUILT FOR ZERO

Adams County is part of the Built for Zero movement to reach functional zero for veterans experiencing homelessness – make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time. Our primary target population are veterans experiencing homelessness. As the majority of Adams County's veterans experiencing homelessness are not eligible for VA housing assistance, we have begun working with our housing authorities and nonprofit partners to prioritize this population.

HOUSING NAVIGATION AND MEDIATION

This program provides housing navigation and tenant-landlord mediation services for Adams County residents experiencing housing instability. The goal of the program is also to recruit property owners who are willing to rent to

residents with little to poor rental history.

MOBILE HOME INITIATIVE

The Mobile Home Initiative provides legal services to mobile home residents throughout Adams County. This includes community "Know Your Rights" trainings on the rights of mobile home residents under Colorado's Mobile Home Park Act, pro bono legal consultation and representation on matters related to landlord violations of the Mobile Home Park Act, eviction defense, and direct referrals to community partners on non-legal social services.

NEXT STEP

In partnership with our community partners and school district McKinney-Vento liaisons, The Next Step program addresses doubled-up households by serving Adams County families through intensive housing navigation and placement services in combination with financial assistance for expenses like rental deposit, rental fees, and utility payments.

RESPIRE HOUSING

The Respite Housing program ensures that households have access to quick diversion services due to situational homelessness. Situational Homelessness is the status of being forced to live without housing due to a life-altering event, such as job loss, domestic violence, medical emergency, forced out of a doubled-up living situation, or natural disaster.